



February 23, 2017

**RE: Governor's Budget Recommendation to Cut the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) Budget by \$947,000**

Dear Chairs Olsten, Formica and Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Connecticut Psychological Association **opposes the proposed \$947,000 cut from the CMHC budget.**

- CMHC is vital for access to mental health care by publicly insured residents of New Haven County who are dealing with severe and persistent mental illness. CMHC is also an important training site for many psychologists and psychiatrists who are interested in community mental health. *CMHC draws many high quality trainees and providers to our state, and the loss of funding would be debilitating to both CMHC's publicly insured patients, as well as the future of mental health care in Connecticut.*
- CMHC is a major mental health research hub in Connecticut, drawing both investment dollars and grant funding, as well as talented researchers to Connecticut.
- CMHC's Law and Psychiatry Division provides important services to the mentally ill who find themselves in the state criminal justice system, and trains many fellows each year.
- CMHC's Hispanic Clinic is the largest clinic of its kind in the state, offering mental health services to our Spanish-speaking communities.
- CMHC's Substance Abuse Treatment Unit has been integral to combating the state's opioid epidemic, through research developing cutting edge interventions, as well as providing much-needed clinical services.

For each of these reasons, CPA requests your opposition to the proposed \$947,000 reduction to the CMHC budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.